

Truman considered threatening China, Soviet with 'all-out war'

HOUSTON (AP) — President Harry Truman twice considered threatening "all-out war" against China and the Soviet Union, seven years after he had ordered the atomic bombing of Japan, the Houston Chronicle said in a copyrighted story today.

Francis L. Loewenheim, Rice University historian, said Truman considered the threats as a means of ending the Korean War and made them in his own handwriting in a journal he kept on an intermittent basis while in the White House from April 1945 to January 1953.

Loewenheim wrote that although the memoranda included scathing denunciations of the communist regimes, the late president apparently intended his journal to be read only by himself.

"Truman's hot temper was well known in his lifetime, and likewise cannot be discounted as a factor in his writing as he did... for his own eyes," Loewenheim wrote.

"His outpouring, in that sense, it might be argued, was a kind of catharsis."

Loewenheim said the memoranda were retained in Truman's personal records in his own wing of the Truman Library at Independence, Mo., until some years after his death in 1972.

The documents quoted do not specifically mention nuclear war or the atomic bombs Truman ordered dropped on Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945, and Nagasaki on Aug. 9.

The Jan. 27 memo read, in part:

"It seems to me that the proper approach now would be an ultimatum with a 10-day expiration limit, informing Moscow that we intend to blockade the China coast from the Korean border to Indo-China, and that we intend to destroy every military base in Manchuria, including submarine bases, by means now in our control — and if there is further interference we shall eliminate any ports or cities necessary to accomplish our peaceful purposes."

The document said Russia had broken every agreement made at Tehran, Yalta and Potsdam; had raped Poland, Romania, "Czeko-Slovakia," Hungary, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania; was holding prisoners of war contrary to cease-fire terms and had kidnapped children in every country occupied.

The document continued:

"This program is evidently a continuing one. It must stop and stop now. We of the free world have suffered long enough...."

"Stop supplying war materials to the thugs who are attacking the world and settle down to an honorable policy of keeping agreements which have already been made."

"This means all-out war. It means that Moscow, St. Petersburg, Mukden, Vladivostok, Peking, Shanghai, Port Arthur, Dairen, Odessa, Stalingrad and every manufacturing plant in China and the Soviet Union will be eliminated."

"This is the final chance for the Soviet government to decide whether it desires to survive or not."

The May 18, 1952, document began with "The conference

on the Korean Armistice are propaganda sounding boards for the Commies."

It repeated the earlier charges about holding World War II prisoners of war and then continued:

"How many South Korean and Allied prisoners have you shot without cause. You claim you hold only 12,000 prisoners. Where are the other thousands of civilians and soldiers you carried off from South Korea."

"If you signed an agreement it wouldn't be worth the paper it is written on...."

"Now do you want to end the hostilities in Korea or do you want China and Siberia destroyed. You may have one or the other, whichever you want. These lies of yours at this conference have gone far enough. You either accept our fair and just proposal or you will be completely destroyed."

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Gov. Brown will address Demo convention on unity

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Gov. Brown will speak to the Democratic National Convention on Aug. 13, his chief of staff, Gray Davis, said yesterday.

Davis said the invitation came from Robert Keefe, an official of the Democratic National Committee, who said it will be confirmed by national chairman John White.

He said Brown will stress the necessity of uniting behind the nominee to defeat Republican Ronald Reagan.